

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 1, cancelled claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claims 13-20. Claims 1-8, 11, and 13-20 remain pending.

In the June 19, 2007 Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Publication No. (WO 97/15009) to Bajpai ("*Bajpai*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,111,384 to Aslanian et al., ("*Aslanian*"); and objected to claims 10 and 11 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the present application.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bajpai* in view of *Aslanian*. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 10 into independent claim 1 and added new independent claim 13, which includes the allowable subject matter of claim 11. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over the references of record.

Claims 2-8, 11, and 14-20 depend from independent claims 1 or 13 and, therefore, require all elements thereof. Accordingly, claims 2-8, 11, and 14-20 are allowable over the references of record at least due to this dependence.

¹ As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to certain assertions or requirements applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

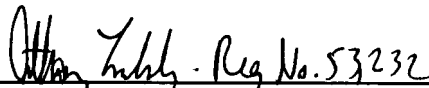
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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